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C.I.A. I.O.S. KIRKPATRICK
Lyman B.
502-4.87.2 The Real CIA

Failures Acknowledged

Former CIA Member Defends Agency

The Real CIA. By Lyman B. Kirkpatrick Jr. The Macmillan Co.

After all those books and articles knocking the CIA, here's a book by a veteran CIA executive, now retired, defending it from attack.

Like the FBI, the CIA never comments on criticism, and it is not officially doing so now. But Lyman Kirkpatrick left the agency in 1965 after having been with it since its inception in 1950, and thus we have what might be regarded as a semi-official answer to the critics.

The author will no doubt contend that his book is no more than an autobiographical account of his 15 years with the Agency. But his is the only authoritative voice so far to speak up for this secret arm of government.

At the same time the reader should be warned that there is nothing remotely sensational or even mildly exciting in these pages. Kirkpatrick was for the most part an organizational officer in the agency. It was he who was generally called on to devise means of streamlining its bureaucratic structure, and much of his time was spent in writing reports on organizational problems. His duties were as far removed from the popular notion of Operative 007 as it is possible to get.

The perfect intelligence agency, one assumes, is that which never moves into the public eye. Its warmest admir-

ers can hardly say that of the CIA, bearing in mind the Bay of Pigs fiasco, the subsidizing of student organizations, to mention three familiar examples. CIA headlines reverberated round the world, as the author ruefully acknowledges.

One is left with the impression that the CIA is a highly efficient intelligence operation whose services are of immense value to the government, but that more probing and publicity might impair that efficiency. Would it not, perhaps, help keep the agency on its toes?